

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A sampling device for obtaining samples of internal body substances in the digestive tract of a patient, said device having a shape of a swallowable capsule (2) which allows a sample of the body substance to enter the capsule through at least one inlet opening (18) which is opened in a predetermined position of the digestive tract following contact with the body substance to be collected,

characterised in that the capsule (2) comprises two members, a cap member (4) and a body member (6), which are permanently joined to each other,

a capsule wall (3) comprising said inlet opening (18), which initially is sealed and, when the patient has swallowed the capsule (2), is opened in said predetermined position following contact with the body substance to be collected,

an inner chamber (5), defined by said capsule wall (3) and disposed to preserve a vacuum or underpressure relative to the environment when the inlet opening (18) is sealed, and

a separate blocking member (12) disposed within the inner chamber (5) adjacent to and spaced from the inlet opening (18) in the capsule wall (3), said blocking member (12) being elastic flexible and having at least one laterally located aperture (16) for a through-flow of body substance into the inner chamber (5),

said blocking member having a configuration, such that,

when the inlet opening (18) has been opened following contact with said body substance, the blocking member (12) has a flow permitting configuration which admits a flow of body substance into the inner chamber (5) as long as there is a pressure difference between the inner chamber (5) and the external environment of the capsule (2) and a flow preventing configuration which blocks the inlet opening (18) from the inside of the chamber (5) when said pressure difference has been equalised by the flow of body substance into the capsule (2).

2. (Original) A sampling device according to claim 1, **characterised** in that the inlet opening (18) is sealed by a plug member (20) of a material that is dissolved following contact with said body substance.

3. (Original) A sampling device according to claim 1, **characterised** in that the blocking member (12) consists of an elastic, self-sealing membrane, which in said flow preventing configuration sealingly bears on the inside of the capsule wall (3), such that an outflow of the body substance in the inner chamber (5) is prevented.

4. (Previously Presented) A sampling device according to claim 3, **characterised** in that said blocking member (12) is retained in the capsule wall (3) between said cap member (4) and said body member (6).

5. (Currently amended) A sampling device according to claim 4, **characterised** in that the blocking member (12) is bell-shaped and has at least one laterally located aperture (16) for a through flow of body substance into the inner chamber (5).

6. (Original) A sampling device according to claim 5, **characterised** in that a peripheral edge of the blocking member (12) is clamped between said cap member (4) and said body member (6).

7. (Original) A sampling device according to claim 2, **characterised** in that the plug member (20) consists of two or more layers of different materials and that each layer is

dissolved in different positions in the digestive tract

following contact with a specific body substance.

8. (Original) A sampling device according to claim 4, **characterised** in that a filter (10) is clamped between said cap member (4) and said body member (6) for filtrating the body substance that flows into the inner chamber (5).

9. (Original) A sampling device according to any of the preceding claims, **characterised** in that protrusions (30) are disposed externally on the capsule (2) circumferentially of the inlet opening (18), thereby forming inlet grooves (32) between the protrusions (30) for securing a free flow of body substance to the inlet opening (18).

Claims 10-19 (Cancelled).

20. (Currently amended) A sampling device for obtaining samples of internal body substances in the digestive tract of a patient, said device having a shape of a swallowable capsule (2) which allows a sample of the body substance to enter the capsule through at least one inlet opening (18) which is opened in a predetermined position of the digestive tract following contact with the body substance to be collected,

characterised in that the capsule (2) comprises

a capsule wall (3) comprising said inlet opening (18), which initially is sealed and, when the patient has swallowed the capsule (2), is opened in said predetermined position following contact with the body substance to be collected,

an inner chamber (5), defined by said capsule wall (3) and disposed to preserve a vacuum or underpressure relative to the environment when the inlet opening (18) is sealed, and

a flexible blocking membrane (12) disposed within the inner chamber (5) adjacent to the inlet opening (18) in the capsule wall (3), said blocking membrane (12) having at least one laterally located aperture (16) for a through-flow of body substance into the inner chamber (5) being elastic and

further having a configuration, such that,

when the inlet opening (18) has been opened following contact with the body substance, the blocking membrane (12) has a flow permitting configuration which admits a flow of body substance into the inner chamber (5) as long as there is a pressure difference between the inner chamber (5) and the environment exterior of the capsule (2), and

a flow preventing configuration wherein said blocking membrane (12) sealingly bears on the inside

of the capsule wall (3), such that an outflow of the body substance in the inner chamber (5) is prevented.

21. (Previously presented) A sampling device according to claim 20, **characterised** in that the inlet opening (18) is sealed by a plug member (20) of a material that is dissolved following contact with said body substance.

22. (Previously presented) A sampling device according to claim 20 **characterised** in that the capsule (2) comprises two members, a cap member (4) and a body member (6), which are permanently joined to each other, and that said blocking membrane (12) is retained in the capsule wall (3) between said cap member (4) and said body member (6)

23. (Currently amended) A sampling device according to claim 22, **characterised** in that the blocking membrane (12) is bell-shaped and has at least one laterally located aperture (16) for a through flow of body substance into the inner chamber (5).

24. (Previously presented) A sampling device according to claim 23, **characterised** in that a peripheral edge of the blocking membrane (12) is clamped between said cap member (4) and said body member (6).

25. (Previously presented) A sampling device according to claim 21, **characterised** in that the plug member (20) consists of two or more layers of different materials and that each layer is dissolved in different positions in the digestive tract following contact with a specific body substance.

26. (Previously presented) A sampling device according to claim 22, **characterised** in that a filter (10) is clamped between said cap member (4) and said body member (6) for filtrating the body substance that flows into the inner chamber (5).

27. (New) The sampling device of claim 1 wherein said blocking membrane comprises an imperforate portion having an area greater than the area of the inlet opening (18) which, in said flow preventing configuration, is adjacent to and in contact with a portion of the inside of the capsule wall (3) defining the inlet opening (18).

28. (New) The sampling device of claim 22 wherein said blocking membrane comprises an imperforate portion having an area greater than the area of the inlet opening (18) which, in said flow preventing configuration, is adjacent to and in contact with a portion of the inside of the capsule wall (3) defining the inlet opening (18).

29. (New) The sampling device of claim 1 wherein said capsule wall (3) has a first thickness, and further comprising a piercible portion (24) which is thinner than said first thickness, said piercible portion (24) being adapted to be pierced by an evacuation needle.

30. (New) The sampling device of claim 20 wherein said capsule wall (3) has a first thickness, and further comprising a piercible portion (24) which is thinner than said first thickness, said piercible portion (24) being adapted to be pierced by an evacuation needle.